



Funding music projects that change young lives

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Music Projects

Uganda

M-Lisada Brass Band

Elgon Youth Brass Band

Good Shepherd School

Tender Talents Magnet School

Mummy Foundation

South Africa

Ghana

Kenya

India

Thailand

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- **Tender Talents Magnet School**
- **Mummy Foundation**

Musequality supports projects like the **Elgon Youth Development Centre (EYDC)** that have the potential to change young lives through music.



December 2014

At EYDC it's not just about the being in the limelight. There are also community clean-ups and an award for 'Best Time-keeper'



Musequality was able to source and supply a euphonium, adding a rich mellow tone to the band's sound



The band was proud to play a part in welcoming home Uganda's Olympic marathon runner and new national hero, Stephen Kiprotich, who won gold at London 2012.



before a performance at the Mandela National Stadium in Namboole to usher in 2015.



I dropped out of school because no one was paying my tuition fees. I explained my problems to Fredrick Kyewalyanga [director of the Elgon Youth Brass Band] and he advised me to join him. I told him I did not know how to play any band instrument, and he told me that we are born knowing everything, we only need to be reminded of that. This really gave me courage and I joined him as soon as I could

Tanga Derick 18
Studying Accountancy at college



The band marches through the streets of Mbale, proud supporters leading a big clean up of their community



You press there and blow here... this young player can't wait to get to grips with the baritone horn

November 2014

Fredrick Kyewalyanga receives an award from Mrs Janet Museveni, the First Lady of Uganda, in recognition of the work of EYDC in the Mbale community. Fredrick told us that he was so excited to meet the First Lady that he forgot to join in the official group photograph afterwards!



Elgon Youth Development Centre statement - 7th October 2014

In June 2014 allegations were made to us about EYDC and we immediately referred the allegations to the Mbale police. Following a thorough investigation the police concluded: that the allegations were false; that there was no evidence of criminal activity; and that the allegations were "harmful propaganda". At least one of the individuals who made the allegations almost certainly used a false name; several of them failed to respond to police requests for further information, possibly also because they were using false names. After the conclusion of the police investigation people supporting the complainants made a further allegation that the police were bribed to reach a specific conclusion and that Musequality funds were used for the bribes. Musequality has investigated this allegation and it is not true. The new allegations were forwarded to the police who announced that they would take action against those making these false allegations.

Musequality supported EYDC between January 2010 and May 2014, paying specifically for music training, instruments, building rental plus income-generating vocational training activities. While we were supporting EYDC we visited the project ourselves and also engaged a Ugandan consultant with special expertise in public health and welfare to audit the project on two occasions. We and the consultant were able to confirm that Musequality funds were properly applied to the purposes for which they were donated, and that the project provides a happy, positive and supportive atmosphere from which disadvantaged children were benefiting enormously. The false allegations were damaging to EYDC. We hope that the team there will be able to recover and continue their work to turn round the lives of young people in Mbale.

Elgon Youth Development Centre statement - 6 June 2014

Two days ago we discovered a statement on our website saying that a home had been bought for EYDC. This was wrong: Musequality has not funded the purchase of a home for EYDC although it has paid for the rental of premises. We are sorry that information on our website was incorrect: we have apologised to the leadership of EYDC for this error and we apologise for not spotting the mistake on our website sooner.

Elgon Youth Development Centre, Mbale, Uganda

The story of twelve-year-old Henry Masaba is an example of what is possible through music.

When Henry was 10, his father died, leaving his family in poverty. Henry ran away from home, hoping to find a better life on the streets. Instead, he fell into a life of drug abuse and violence, begging at bus stops. He walked around the town looking for scrap metal to sell in order to buy food. Abused and beaten by older boys, he almost lost all hope. Then he found the EYDC.

EYDC aims to empower vulnerable children, give them a sense of worth, increase their ability to manage difficult emotions and elicit positive social behaviour. Through music, they can acquire a sense of security and positive self-image that prevents them from falling into temptations.

Henry became a trumpeter with the band. Today he can play today before an audience, demonstrate his talent and confidence, and respect himself as a worthy citizen.

[See his film here.](#)

Fredrick Kyewalyanga, EYDC project leader, writes: 'The role of a musical note, a musical sound in the life of any person, can be a boon to social health as well as psychological and physical health. Music educates us unconsciously. It tells our heart that there is a birth of life and positivism in eliminating sadness and negativity and imbibing an aesthetic, meditative value. So music plays a huge role in transforming children's lives and increasing their chances of being successful in society and life. Appreciation of different cultures, communication and self-expression increases self-confidence.'

Through their involvement with the project, many street children have been reunited with their families and returned to school. Some young men have found jobs through the skills they have acquired, helping to reduce poverty among their families and community at large.

A vision for the future

Fredrick Kyewalyanga couldn't afford the stamps to post us the form applying for funding for a new brass band he wanted to start in the town of Mbale, eastern Uganda. He got

someone travelling to London to deliver it by hand.

In the meantime, he scraped together instruments and began to set up his band. Thanks to a generous donation from **The Girdlers' Company**, Musequality was able to help the project buy marching drums, their trademark sousaphone and other instruments. We also helped cover staff costs and rent at the building acquired to house the players.

The band is making excellent progress and has given many concerts. They participated in the 2011 World Busk, and an audience in rain-soaked London was able to listen to their playing from sunny Mbale via a phone link-up. They have performed at weddings, conferences and trade shows as well as appearances on special occasions such as International Women's Day and International Labour Day.

More than a hundred children and young people are now involved, which has created an urgent need for more instruments. Musequality is always seeking trumpets, tenor horns, euphoniums, baritones and trombones for the band.



In a bid to make the project more self-sustaining, part of EYBB's budget is being invested in developing income-generating skills, including hairdressing and art and design work. Musequality is funding these activities through a grant made to us by a charity focused on helping disadvantaged children in Uganda find work.

'Ever since Musequality started helping us with rent for the house where the needy/street children sleep now, life for these kids at Elgon Youth Brass Band has changed. No more sleeping on the streets. I wish you were here to see the joy they have now.' Fredrick Kyewalyanga

Home from home

Volunteers heading out to Mbale in eastern Uganda to work with the project can now look forward to homely accommodation. EYBB's income-generating activities have succeeded in raising enough funds for project leader Fredrick Kyewalyanga to rent a house for volunteers. Up to eight people can share the house for a tiny daily fee, sharing the cooking, cleaning and shopping and living as part of the EYBB family.

Elgon welcomes home Olympic hero

The band was proud to play a part in welcoming home Uganda's Olympic marathon runner and new national hero, **Stephen Kiprotich**, who won gold at London 2012. It was Uganda's first gold medal in 40 years, and only the second in its history.



The athlete was welcomed back to his home in the Kapchorwa district by crowds of people at a ceremony that included an enthusiastic performance by the band. EYBB were thrilled to meet their hero backstage, get a glimpse of the enormous gold medal and enjoy a one-on-one chat.

Lost boys find their families

Part of the project's mission is to reunite street children with their families. In the summer of 2012, two young boys, Henery and Rogers, hoped to leave their street lives behind them for good when project leader Fredrick Kyewalyanga set off with them to find their homes.

This is not necessarily an easy task, and the children may not always be sure of their welcome. But on this occasion, undaunted by boggy roads, wary communities and unresponsive front doors, the party finally succeeded in reuniting Henery with his grandmother and Rogers with his mother.

Watch the [film](#) of their reunion.

Report from Uganda

Executive director **Jeremy Bradshaw** and trustee **Jean Buck** visited Musequality's projects in Uganda in December 2011 to find out how the children involved in our music schemes are progressing. They received a warm welcome from EYBB in Mbale and were treated to a special concert by the band. They also discussed various management issues with the projects and acquired much useful information in preparation for the 2012 grant award process. [More](#)



Support for Tadeo

Tadeo, a young quadruple amputee from the **Good Shepherd Home** in Kampala, has received prosthetic limbs to help him realise his dream of becoming a trombonist. In November 2011, Tadeo attended the hospital in Mbale where the International Committee of the Red Cross fitted him with new legs and a prosthetic arm. Tadeo was supported throughout by members of the Elgon Youth Brass Band.

EYBB promotes girl power



Girls are acquiring confidence and new skills thanks to EYBB's skills-development programme. Tailoring and hairdressing activities have been enthusiastically taken up by girls, many of whom had dropped out of school. A 'girl confidence club' called **Super Ladies** has been introduced, where girls try their hand at activities usually associated with boys – such as tuba playing and conducting.

Sad times

2011 was a difficult year for the band. In January, 16-year-old trombonist Rogers Washirwa died from an undiagnosed illness. In October, 15-year-old Bumba Sadart died of leukaemia, and just a few days later Asayo Morin, who worked as the band's nanny, lost her battle with breast cancer. She was a widow who left behind eight children, some of whom are band members.

Despite these tragedies, Fredrick Kyewalyanga remains focused on fundraising and improving the quality of life for all the members of the band. He is currently working on getting children back in touch with their roots, and developing more effective outreach initiatives.

Design: **Jane Davies**